The HANFORD REACH

June 12, 2000

A publication of the U.S. Department of Energy for all Hanford Site employees

The newly hung Washington Room plaque is examined in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant by Ines Triay, left, U.S. Congressman Doc Hastings and Keith Klein. Triay is manager of the Department of Energy Carlsbad Area Office and Klein is manager of the DOE Richland Operations Office. Waste shipments to WIPP are scheduled to begin later this month from Hanford.

Hanford waste headed for Washington Room

Connie Eckard, FH

The transuranic waste from the Hanford Site will have its very own room when it gets to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

Disposal Room 2 of Panel 1 in the WIPP underground complex was dedicated as the Washington Room June 2 at WIPP. Located 2,150 feet below the surface, the room will be filled with waste from Hanford as well as other Department of Energy facilities.

"Getting transuranic waste off the Hanford Site and safely disposed of here at WIPP will be an important step for us," said Keith Klein, manager of the DOE Richland Operations Office, who spoke at the underground dedication. "It will be the first time

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Hanford waste headed for Washington Room, cont.

U.S. Congressman Doc Hastings of Pasco signs the disposal room placard nearly a half-mile below the New Mexico desert. The room at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant honors the State of Washington for its partnership in opening the world's first permanent repository for defense-generated transuranic waste.

radioactive waste has ever left our site for permanent disposal, and will be emblematic, I think, of the real and visible cleanup progress we're making at Hanford."

Klein was joined at the dedication by a group of Washington and New Mexico officials that included U.S. Congressman Doc Hastings, State Representatives Shirley Hankins and Jerome Delvin, and Fluor Hanford President Ron Hanson.

"The state of Washington is pleased that WIPP is open and will soon accept transuranic waste from Hanford," said Hastings, who followed Klein in the dedication ceremonies. "This event recognizes the years of cooperation and dedication among all parties in making WIPP a reality. It also shows continuing progress on the cleanup of the Hanford Site."

During the next three decades, approximately 20,000 cubic meters of transuranic waste will be shipped from Hanford to WIPP. The Transuranic Package Transporter Model 2, or TRUPACT-II, will be used to transport about 2,300 shipments. The shipments will move an estimated 96,500 drums of waste out of Washington.

The Washington Room is the fourth waste disposal room dedicated to a state involved in the Department of Energy's cleanup effort. DOE previously dedicated the Colorado Room, the Idaho Room and the New Mexico Room. The Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site in Colorado, the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory and Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico are the first three waste-generating sites to ship waste to WIPP since it began disposal operations on March 26, 1999.

WIPP is designed to permanently dispose of defense-generated transuranic radioactive waste left from the research and production of nuclear weapons. The disposal rooms have been excavated in an ancient, stable salt formation almost a half-mile underground.

Final preparations are under way for shipping transuranic waste off the Hanford Site beginning June 19. A ceremony at the Waste Receiving and Processing facility will feature dignitaries from the states of Washington and Oregon, area tribal nations, elected officials and community representatives. ✦

The HANFORD REACH

Distribution questions: call the Mailroom, 375-5170

See the *Hanford Reach* on the Web at: **www.Hanford.gov/reach/index.html**

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FH ready for Phase II ISMS Verification

Deborah Dunn, FH

"This is the time when we get to demonstrate how we do work safely," said Mark Peres, referring to Phase II Verification for the Integrated Environment, Safety and Health Management System (ISMS). Peres is the ISMS implementation project manager for Fluor Hanford and its projects.

A 44-member DOE-led assessment team begins Phase II Verification activities today for Fluor Hanford, its projects and — under separate criteria — for the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office. The team lead is Ed Parsons, senior technical advisor in the DOE-RL Office of Safety and Engineering.

"The verification effort signals the successful integration of safety management into work and business activities," Parsons said. "It is not to be considered the final end point, but the transition from development efforts to a way each one of us approaches our individual role here at the Hanford Site."

"We've put a lot of effort into implementing ISMS," Peres said. "We can be proud of the things we've done and show those strengths to the teams when they get to our facilities."

The team's work includes field observations from June 14 to June 28. The DOE team has been divided into three main groups and the core verification periods for each group are:

- **Fluor Hanford Projects Team A:** Nuclear Material Stabilization, June 14-20; River Corridor Project, June 21-27.
- **Fluor Hanford Projects Team B:** Waste Management, June 14-20; Analytical Services, June 21-23; FFTF, June 26-27.
- **DOE-RL Team:** June 19-28.

Flexibility has been built into the schedule to allow observation opportunities for the verification team. Fluor Hanford personnel from the ISMS Implementation Project are coordinating the DOE Phase II Verification team activities through ISMS coordinators at each project.

ISMS implementation follows a formal series of steps and processes. Fluor Hanford's ISMS Phase I Verification consisted primarily of documentation reviews and management interviews. After completion of the ISMS Phase I Verification on April 28, Fluor Hanford declared readiness to proceed with the Phase II Verification in a May 25 letter from FH President and CEO Ron Hanson to DOE-RL Manager Keith Klein.

Phase II Verification will be more focused on the planning and control of work, including feedback and improvement processes. ✦

ORP makes progress on finding vitrification contractor

Recently the Office of River Protection, CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Inc. and Bechtel National, Inc. demonstrated their shared commitment to keeping the River Protection Project on track while a new contractor is sought for the design and construction of vitrification facilities.

ORP's final stop-work order to BNFL Inc. became effective June 8. Last month, Secretary of Energy Richardson rejected the company's proposal to build a vitrification plant under a privatized contract.

Also on June 8 — so that no schedule delays occur — ORP modified CH2M HILL Hanford Group's contract to add vitrification plant operations to its current scope of work. And a "bridge" contract was signed with Bechtel National for design and construction of the vitrification facilities.

These key interim actions will continue the River Protection Project's critical design work while the request for proposals is prepared and issued and a contract is awarded for the design and construction work.

A 30-day contract transition period began on June 8, wherein all personnel actions and subcontract reassignment activities will be completed. The intent of the transition period is for all affected employees to be treated fairly and professionally and to receive offers of employment.

"I've said all along, this monumental project of protecting the Columbia River is nothing without its people," ORP Manager Dick French told contractor employees. "I hope this transition period goes as smoothly as possible for everyone. I need every single one of you — together we've got a lot of work to do." ✦

Timeline of events for vit plant contract:

July 2000
ORP's draft RFP is issued for comment

August 2000
ORP's final RFP is issued

September 2000
Written proposals due from bidders

January 2000
ORP awards contract for design and construction of vit plant

Umatillas confident of safe waste shipments through reservation

When the initial shipment of transuranic, or TRU, waste rolls south from the Hanford Site later this month, the TRUPACT truck will cross the Columbia River and turn east on Interstate 84 headed for the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have been involved in preparation for this anticipated shipment of Hanford TRU waste since 1991. The Tribal Fire Department and Ken Gray, its chief, have been particularly involved.

For the past six years, Gray has attended Western Governors Association transportation meetings put on by personnel from the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, or WIPP. TRU waste from Department of Energy sites like Hanford will be permanently stored at WIPP, outside Carlsbad, N.M.

Gray also has been involved with establishing the

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Training focuses on responding to potential incidents

The States and Tribal Education Program, or STEP, has trained more than 13,000 emergency response professionals along the highway corridors to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

This Department of Energy training focuses on responses to potential incidents involving WIPP waste shipments. Classes address caring for incident victims, guarding the public welfare, protecting the environment and ensuring the safety of responders.

The training began in 1988 and was reviewed and certified in 1993 by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Umatillas confident of safe waste shipments through reservation. cont.

transportation plan for transuranic waste in the western states. However, this is not the first time Gray has done transportation planning for Hanford materials.

He was also directly involved with a similar transportation plan for the cesium 137 shipping campaign during the 1990s ("Last of the cesium capsules return to Hanford," *Hanford Reach*, April 10). That campaign was completed without incident, he pointed out.

"All past and present Department of Energy shipping campaigns have involved the CTUIR and I expect all future campaigns will continue using this process," said Gray.

Gray

Now that the first shipment of transuranic waste from the Hanford Site is finally approaching reality, the Tribal Fire Department has stepped up its training program to include protocols for these shipments. All tribal firefighters have received additional hazardous materials training for the transuranic waste shipments headed to WIPP.

"The Transcom tracking system is activated and online at the fire department so we can track all shipments through the reservation," said Gray. The tracking system uses satellite transmissions that allow officials along the route to know the location of the WIPP transport trucks at all times.

The WIPP transport with the TRUPACT containers has visited the Umatilla Reservation so that tribal leaders and emergency responders could see up close just how safe these shipments will be. Ken Niles of the Oregon Department of Energy accompanied the transport to the Umatilla Reservation. Niles said the event there was attended better than similar ones at other sites. The attendance indicated that the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation leaders are cognizant of what is being shipped through the reservation. The leaders are confident that the containers are adequate for this transportation campaign.

Department of Energy funding of emergency response equipment helped the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation prepare for shipments of transuranic waste headed for New Mexico from Hanford. Funding by the tribes enlarged the fire station to five apparatus bays, living quarters, a training room and administrative offices.

"The bottom line is this," said Gray. "We are confident all measures have been put into place to conduct safe shipping of transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant site in New Mexico.

"We also are confident that there is no threat to the people or resources on the Umatilla Indian Reservation."

The tribal fire chief will continue his involvement with the Western Governors Association regarding any and all DOE shipping campaigns. Through government-to-government agreements and open dialogue, the CTUIR and DOE will continue on this joint venture to clean up Hanford. ❖

ERC team ahead of schedule with pipe removal

A 16-month effort to remove 17,000 feet of steel piping at the D/DR remediation site will be completed a month ahead of schedule with no radiological or lost-workday accidents. The site includes contaminated areas around the obsolete D and DR Reactors in the 100 Area.

RCI Environmental, a subcontractor to Bechtel Hanford, Inc., will finish the job this month. BHI is the Department of Energy's Environmental Restoration Contractor for Hanford, with primary responsibility for restoring the river corridor.

The pipe removal is part of a larger ERC remediation effort that has been under way at the two reactor areas since November 1996. A total of 690,000 tons of contaminated soil and material has been removed from the D/DR site. Excavations will be backfilled with clean material by February 2001, the expected completion date that's five months ahead of the Tri-Party Agreement milestone.

Removal of 17,000 feet of steel piping will be completed nearly a month ahead of schedule by Bechtel Hanford subcontractor RCI Environmental. When D and DR Reactors were operating, the piping was used to carry contaminated water from the reactors to retention basins.

The piping, most of which is 60 inches in diameter, was used from 1950 to 1967 to carry contaminated water underground from the D and DR Reactors to retention basins. Employees have had to overcome several challenges to achieve their ahead-of-schedule and safe record. These included controlling the spread of contamination and minimizing the generation of new waste from the disposal efforts.

Removing the pipe required employees to excavate the soil around the pipe by machine and by hand. But employees had to be careful to not disturb contamination that loosely adhered to the rust inside the pipes. "It was a big change from the contamination we had been excavating for the past two years," said Alvin Langstaff, task lead for 100 D/DR Remedial Action. "That contamination is tightly bound to the soil. The contamination in the rust required additional controls to prevent spread by wind and water."

Major challenges in excavating the 60-inch-diameter piping included containing contamination-bearing rust from inside the pipe and asbestos cladding from outside the pipe.

To minimize airborne contamination, employees relied on a water misting wand rather than a stream of water. Soil cofferdams also were built around the work area to contain the water.

Another challenge the employees overcame was the removal of asbestos cladding so that the piping could be cut into smaller pieces for disposal. Crews removed a 2-foot strip of asbestos-containing material every 30 feet where the pipe was then cut. Each section was subsequently cut into three lengthwise pieces and again into 15-foot lengths. The pipe was disposed of in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.

Pipe is concurrently being removed at the H Reactor remediation site and the work will be completed this fall. Next fiscal year, crews will begin to remove the pipe at the B/C remediation site. ✦

Fluor leave of absence policy aids entrepreneurs

Michael Turner, FH

Patti Bongers shows the Web site for her new business to Jerry Schneider, Fluor Hanford manager of Economic Transition.

A Fluor Hanford employee is pursuing her dream of self-employment without some of the risk, thanks to assistance from a little-known Fluor-sponsored program. The program allows employees to retain certain company benefits while on an "entrepreneurial leave of absence," known as ELOA.

"For some time, I have wanted to pursue an idea for a new type of business," said Patti Bongers of Fluor's Waste Services Program. "This allows me to start a new career for myself." Bongers began a leave of absence June 8 to start up her new business endeavor with the help of the ELOA program.

Bongers' startup business, called "Executive Solutions," offers unique on-line administrative support functions — or virtual office assistance — for anyone around the globe with a computer and a modem. It's a way of overcoming geographical barriers with the use of communications media such as the Internet, facsimile, telephone and e-mail.

A virtual assistant is a highly trained and skilled administrative professional who — as a support and growth partner to entrepreneurs, corporations, business owners and individuals — provides high-level, long-term collaborative administrative assistance.

Executive Solutions has already lined up three initial clients, one located in New York City. "It's definitely different than most working arrangements," Bongers said. "When the client's asleep, I'm awake doing work for him. He wakes up and everything's waiting there on his computer. He loves it."

Bongers said some of the typical on-line services her company offers are building databases, creating brochures and building and updating Web sites. She has her own Web site to market her services, at **http://www.executive-solution.com**.

Safety net

By allowing them to retain benefits, the ELOA program provides a "safety net" for employees while they start up their own businesses. According to Bongers, the cost of providing her own health insurance would have been too great, but the ELOA program allowed her to move forward and turn her idea into a real venture. Fluor Hanford, in return, is able to capitalize on the potential for job creation by supporting a non-Hanford business.

Jerry Schneider, Fluor Hanford's manager of Economic Transition, said that the ELOA program is one of several job-creation initiatives Fluor administers. "This program is special because we get to see one

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Fluor leave of absence policy aids entrepreneurs, cont.

of our own employees leave the safety of Hanford for the commercial world without all the risk," he said. "And that's always exciting."

To apply for the program, an employee submits a formal proposal to a review committee, which grants the leave based on the viability of the proposed business. "We're looking for job-creation potential, of course," said FH Economic Transition business analyst Doug Bragg, who is on the committee. "But the greater reward is being able to cover some of these costs — costs that, to most entrepreneurs, would be substantial. It's like having 'training wheels,' if you will."

To find out more about entrepreneurial leaves of absence, consult the Fluor Hanford Human Resources Web site, **http://docs.rl.gov/phpp/procedures/listing.asp?calling=4**. ✦

More workers included in CHG safety renewal

CH2M HILL Hanford Group managers will be reaffirming to employees their commitment to safety June 16 during the company's Communicate the Commitment Day. The one-day safety renewal exercise will focus on conduct of operations, injury reduction and behavior-based training as well as the Integrated Environment, Safety and Health Management System, or ISMS.

"Each training session is designed to give us a look at our overall safety picture," said Bill Ross, acting vice president of Tank Waste Operations and coordinator of the event. "Seeing the big picture will help us make continuous improvements."

Some of the subcontractors on the River Protection Project also are invited to participate in the safety training. Subcontractors who are considered staff augmentation — those directly supporting plant force fieldwork — should also attend Communicate the Commitment Day.

CH2M HILL managers will serve lunch to employees at the event. The managers also will talk candidly with the employees during lunch to help promote more interaction and feedback.

Communicate the Commitment Day will serve as the required June safety meeting for all CH2M HILL Hanford Group employees. Sign-in sheets will be distributed to assure credit for the monthly meeting. Shift workers will receive the training during their continuous training cycles. Make-up sessions will be scheduled as needed.

Communicate the Commitment Day will be held from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on June 16 at Richland High School. ✦

Test of two waste-tank mixer pumps successful

Geoff Tyree, CHG

CH2M HILL Hanford Group has completed testing on waste retrieval equipment in Hanford's tank farms. The testing will make a significant contribution to protecting the Columbia River. Two large mixer pumps in Tank AZ-101 are working prototypes of equipment that will ultimately prepare millions of gallons of highly radioactive and hazardous waste for treatment under the River Protection Project.

"This is the most important test we've done to date in demonstrating our ability to deliver waste to a vitrification plant," said Fran DeLozier, CH2M HILL Hanford Group president and general manager. "We have shown we can mix up the waste in a million-gallon, 75-foot-diameter tank."

Selected tanks will serve as staging points for all of Hanford's tank waste when the vitrification plant, which will mix the waste with molten glass, is ready. Mixer pumps will be installed in each staging tank to blend the waste that has settled into layers of liquids, sludge and solids. New dilution systems will also ensure the waste isn't too thick to travel through pipes to the vitrification plant.

"This is a significant milestone in our efforts to protect the Columbia River," said Dick French, manager of the Department of Energy Office of River Protection. "Completing this means that we are moving forward with tank waste cleanup."

The pump test in Tank AZ-101 is part of a major project to upgrade Hanford tanks to begin feeding waste to a vitrification plant in 2007. About $1.4 billion worth of initial improvements will include installing other transfer equipment such as piping and dilution systems in the tank farms, and infrastructure for the construction and operation of the vitrification plant.

The test began on April 27 and lasted about a month. A report submitted to DOE on June 6 evaluates the pumps' ability to mix the waste before it's transferred to the vitrification plant and their effects on other tank equipment. A second phase will test how long it takes for the solids in Tank AZ-101 to settle. ✦

BULLDOG HOUSE III GOES ON THE BLOCK: The third Pasco Bulldog House was officially placed on the market on June 1 by (left to right) Dr. Terry Bergeson, state Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Pasco High School students Daniel Flores and Carlos Garcia. The 2,034-square- foot home was built by Pasco High School's construction students and involved members of the school's accounting, agricultural science, marketing, interior design and advanced woodworking classes. The project gives students work experience and promotes an interest in the construction industry. Students spent the entire school year working on the house, which was appraised at $179,000. The Bulldog House construction project was initiated by Fluor Hanford in 1998. Money from the sale of the house pays off the loan that funded the construction, funds scholarships ($7,000 this year) and goes back into the program to build the next Bulldog House.

SNF Project TPA milestones, target dates changed

Michele Gerber, FH

Changes to 11 Tri-Party Agreement milestones and target dates affecting the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project were signed in late May by the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington Department of Ecology. The changes reflect the new baseline strategy approved by DOE in April to accelerate sludge removal from the K Basins and to remove spent nuclear fuel from the K East Basin after fuel removal from the K West Basin has been completed.

Signatures on the TPA milestone changes came at a meeting of the Interagency Management Integration Team on May 23, and signified acceptance of the baseline changes by DOE's regulators. According to Phil Loscoe, director of the DOE-RL Office of Spent Nuclear Fuels, the changes represent a win for the contractor, for DOE and the taxpayers. "The changes will result in savings of approximately $16 million in the total project cost," Loscoe said, "and will provide the potential for completion of TPA Milestone M-34-00 ahead of schedule." M-34-00 is the final project completion milestone.

Revised schedule

Milestone accelerations were in the completion of fuel removal from the K West Basin and in sludge-removal work. Milestone extensions were in the beginning and completion of fuel removal from the K East Basin, completion of various construction projects in K East and completion of canister and rack removal in both basins.

Deleted target dates included one to complete outfitting of a third bay in the Cold Vacuum Drying facility, and one to complete a final safety basis for the transfer of K Basins sludge.

A third vacuum drying bay is not needed because the overlap of K West and K East fuel retrieval operations has been removed. The safety requirements for sludge loadout from the K Basins, transport, and receipt at T Plant will be incorporated into other safety documents.

In total, three SNF Project TPA interim milestones were accelerated, three interim milestones were extended, three target milestones were extended and two target milestones were deleted.

"These changes represent the final step in revising the SNF Project schedule to endorse a sequential approach to fuel retrieval from the K Basins," said Doug Sherwood, Hanford project manager for the EPA. "With the lessons learned from the early startup initiative and these changes to the retrieval schedule, EPA believes the project is well positioned to meet the start of fuel retrieval in November." EPA is the lead regulator over the SNF Project.

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Integrated milestones

At the same time, milestones also were signed to ready T Plant, in Hanford's 200 West Area, to receive and store K Basins sludge. Three milestones and two target dates affecting T Plant work were changed. These milestones and target dates ensure that physical modifications, readiness activities and completion of necessary documentation occur at T Plant between 2001 and February 2004. "The readiness of T Plant to receive the sludge is an important aspect of [RL] strategy," Loscoe said. "[We must] ensure that we are working to an integrated schedule."

Teams within Fluor Hanford's SNF and Waste Management Projects have been working closely together for the past six months to ensure that schedules involving K Basins work and T Plant's readiness to receive sludge were integrated to support accelerated cleanup of the river corridor and safe management activities on the central plateau. The Fluor teams are confident that the new milestones at the K Basins and T Plant are achievable.

"Combining the treatment of the sludge from the K Basins with the treatment of other similar materials will create a better solution for the entire site," said Beth Bilson, DOE-RL assistant manager for Environmental Restoration and Waste Management.

Completion in 2007

SNF Project TPA milestones were first signed in early January 1999. To date, the unique project has completed the first eight milestones, with four completed early and one completed two months late.

Two very significant milestones remain to be completed this calendar year — the initiation of fuel movement out of the K West Basin by Nov. 30, and the beginning of canister cleaning operations in the same basin by Dec. 31. There are no SNF Project TPA milestones in calendar year 2001.

Follow-on SNF TPA milestones include five in 2002, none in 2003, four in 2004, four in 2005, one in 2006 and final project completion on July 31, 2007. ✦

LEARNING TO RECYCLE: Doug DuVon, waste minimization coordinator for Bechtel Hanford, Inc., shows second-grade students at St. Joseph's School in Kennewick two of the potential ingredients for recycled glass — ground glass and sand (silica). "Recycling starts at home" is the message DeVon imparted to the 27 students in his May 25 presentation, which focused on helping students and their families reuse and recycle glass rather than just throw it away.

Fluor Hanford receives Community Beautification award

The Association of Washington Business has presented Fluor Hanford with a Community Service Award for volunteer efforts that led to landscaping of the Children's Center's new facility in Richland.

Fluor Hanford was approached about the project last year by the Children's Center. The Fluor Community Involvement Team sought out Team Battelle and Energy Northwest as partners in the effort that began a year ago. Volunteers also were mobilized throughout the summer months from another 14 organizations in the community. These people worked evenings and weekends to complete the project .

Tom Harper, Fluor Hanford vice president of Site Services, accepted the AWB award at a May 18 banquet in Spokane. Harper said the volunteer labor, along with discounts on materials and services that were secured by Calvin Dudney of Fluor Hanford, enabled the Children's Center to spend more money on programs for children instead of landscaping. More than 350 volunteers contributed more than 2,700 hours of their time. Their efforts saved the Children's Center more than $37,000 in labor and $150,000 in overall costs.

Last summer, the volunteers trenched 7,000 feet for irrigation, laid 10,000 feet of irrigation pipe, installed 23 sprinkler zones with 460 sprinkler heads, planted more than 700 plants and trees, laid 38,000 square feet of sod, built a 2,000-square-foot sandbox, created tricycle paths and spread more than 200 cubic yards of bark, sand and rock. ✦

Hanford in Context class offered this summer

A unique class focusing on the Hanford Site will be offered this summer at the Washington State University Tri-Cities campus. The three-credit class will examine Hanford's geology, resources, ecology, technology programs, waste, waste vitrification efforts, history and area pre-history. It will be taught by a team of instructors with a wide range of expertise throughout the region.

The class, "Hanford in Context," will meet in 16 regular sessions, twice a week, for two hours each, beginning June 20. It will also include three field trips on Saturdays throughout the summer. Attendance at two of the three field trips is mandatory to receive credit for the course.

Originally targeted at visiting interns, the class was first offered last summer. Afterwards, when many Hanford Site employees expressed interest in the class, WSU Tri-Cities decided to open this summer's session to general registration. Interested persons may register by contacting the WSU Tri-Cities registration office at 372-7250 or via the Internet at **www.tricity.wsu.edu**. For more information about the class, visit the PNNL Web site at **http://pnl.gov/education/repartframe.html**, or contact the course coordinator, Dr. James Cochran, directly at cochranj@tricity.wsu.edu. ✦

Rivershore Legacy Project will improve fishing pond

In just a few weeks, the community will benefit from the volunteer efforts of employees of the Department of Energy's Environmental Restoration and Waste Management organization and Bechtel Hanford, Inc. The two organizations are working together on a project that will extensively improve the Family Fishing Pond at Columbia Park.

The two entities, along with project partners Columbia Center Rotary, Benton County Public Utility District and the City of Kennewick, unveiled the plans last week for the Rivershore Legacy Project for 2000. The project involves installing a lighted fountain that will shoot water 21 feet in the air, placing eight benches around the pond and laying 56,000 square feet of sod.

Mike Hughes, president of Bechtel Hanford, speaks to the press to announce BHI's and DOE's participation in major upgrades to the Family Fishing Pond at Columbia Park. The Rivershore Legacy Project for 2000 includes a lighted fountain, park benches and 56,000 square feet of sod.

BHI President Mike Hughes said that the project is a natural extension of the work that Bechtel performs for DOE to clean up contaminated land along the Columbia River. "Whether at Hanford through our contract, or in the community through our volunteer work, we're committed to restoring and enhancing the river corridor," Hughes said.

BHI, Columbia Center Rotary and Benton PUD are funding the effort. Employees and members of these organizations will volunteer their time to complete the project by the end of June. The City of Kennewick will contribute Parks and Recreation Department staff time and maintenance for the project. The Atomic Ducks, a recreational dive club, has volunteered to install the fountain.

An artist's rendering shows what the Family Fishing Pond and surrounding area will look like after the lighted fountain and park amenities are installed and new landscaping matures. The upgrades are made possible through the partnership of Bechtel Hanford, Columbia Center Rotary, Benton PUD, the City of Kennewick and the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau.

This is the third community project in Columbia Park that BHI and DOE have supported. The two organizations helped to create the Family Fishing Pond in 1998 and the Playground of Dreams in 1999.

"These community projects are a lot of fun for our employees," Hughes said. "We have a lot of satisfaction knowing that we've created a resource that people enjoy. When you drive by the fishing pond or the playground, there's always someone there. Now it will be even better."

A community dedication ceremony to mark the completion of the project will be hosted by the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau. ✦

Barcot retires after 26 years

If a sense of humor is a prerequisite for working at Hanford, Mick Barcot has been more than qualified in his 26-year career. Barcot, a native of northern Puget Sound, reported that it was culture shock when he moved here in 1974, but everyone here eventually got accustomed to him and his humor.

All joking aside, Barcot is retiring from Hanford. He will be leaving his job as plant engineer for Vent and Balance in the 200 East Area. He started in the fabrication shop at the 309 Building and since then has been the supervisor for the fabrication shop and paint shop in the 300 Area, for maintenance at 221-T and for rotating shifts at the Fast Flux Test Facility. Barcot has also worked as the job manager and construction technical liaison at 100 N and the outside craft scheduler at the Plutonium Finishing Plant.

"The people I encountered at Hanford were all knowledgeable, skilled and highly trained,"Barcot said. "They were achieving impressive goals back in 1974 and still are today."

And his plans for the future? "We plan to operate a small, Web-based business that markets custom-designed metal fabrication." Barcot's wife Linda is leaving Fluor Hanford to join him in retirement.

Barcot's well-wishers are throwing a retirement party on June 28 at the Rattlesnake Mountain Brewing Co. in Richland beginning at 4 p.m. Contact Sue Eubanks at 373-2313 to donate to the gift. ❖

PFP gearing up for plutonium solutions stabilization

Jean McKenna, FH

Converting plutonium nitrate acid solutions to an oxide form is the top priority for the Plutonium Finishing Plant Solutions Stabilization Team. Team members are focused on a September startup date for the new magnesium hydroxide precipitation system now being installed to stabilize the plant's approximately 4,000 liters of plutonium solutions.

To confirm that the myriad of requirements are integrated and proceeding on track, the Solutions Stabilization Team completed a network analysis of the magnesium hydroxide system startup schedule in early May.

A key activity in preparing for September startup is the preparation of plutonium nitrate solutions for stabilization. In mid-April, the PFP Solutions Team performed an early checkout of operating procedures that will be used in the solutions glovebox. The team successfully downloaded solutions from a "product-receiver" can, sampled the solution and then transferred the solution to the Plutonium Process Support Laboratory for testing.

Since construction remains a critical path, a second construction shift was added in early May. Construction crews are now working two eight-hour shifts, six days a week. A constant challenge for the team is finding ways to accelerate construction activities while balancing available plant resources with other priority projects.

"This team exemplifies the principles of ISMS. . ."

Rich Redekopp
Fluor Hanford project manager

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A better method

The magnesium hydroxide precipitation process will prepare plutonium-bearing solutions — currently stored in stainless steel and polymer containers at PFP — for thermal stabilization, packaging and long-term storage. In February 1999, there was a major shift in the project from using the vertical denitration calciner to the magnesium hydroxide precipitation system that has been used so successfully at the Department of Energy's Rocky Flats Site in Colorado.

Two of the key factors leading to the decision to add this process were:

- The system was a proven success at the Rocky Flats Site.
- The system provides the potential to use a single process to stabilize all solutions.

Larry Rosane, Fluor Hanford nuclear chemical operator, and Ben Tabayoyan, Fluor Federal Services construction coordinator, verify installation of the magnesium hydroxide precipitation process glovebox unit with approved print drawings.

Safety first

From the time the PFP Solutions Stabilization team began to switch gears and prepare for the magnesium hydroxide system, there has been a high degree of worker involvement. In their preparations for this project the team members have brought the principles of the Integrated Environment, Safety and Health Management System to life as they defined the scope of work, identified hazards and requirements and made recommendations for all the major steps from conceptual design through fabrication, testing and installation.

The prospect of having new gloveboxes provided PFP a rare opportunity to include design enhancements to improve the gloveboxes from a human-factors perspective.

Conducting a full-scale mockup of the main process glovebox before performing design, fabrication and installation of the equipment took advantage of the expertise of the PFP nuclear operators, radiological control technicians and maintenance crafts workers.

Workers analyzed potential hazards and checked for the human factors in the glovebox design, such as the ability to reach necessary components and visibility within the glovebox. Their comments guided the redesign in relocating glove ports, piping and valves where necessary for better efficiency in operations and maintenance.

Teamwork pays

PFP Engineering, Operations and Maintenance, Fluor Hanford, COGEMA, Fluor Federal Services and the Department of Energy Rich-land Operations Office all participate actively on the magnesium hydroxide precipitation project team. Team members also work closely with the Rocky Flats Site.

Fluor Federal Services set up the design and subcontracted the fabrication of the magnesium hydroxide glove-boxes to Diversified Metal Products in Idaho Falls. PFP staff members requested the capability of testing the new equipment in the Diversified shop in Idaho as much as possible. The manufacturer went so far as to assemble the glass tanks, valves and other equipment in the

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gloveboxes — just as they will be installed at Hanford — to facilitate full testing activities using water.

During the last week of April, a PFP team traveled to the Idaho Falls manufacturing plant to conduct testing to verify the design and determine what modifications and adjustments might be needed before the units were shipped to Hanford for installation. After the testing, the Hanford team assisted Diversified in determining how best to pack the equipment for safe shipment.

By conducting this shakedown effort prior to shipment, several problems were identified and corrections resolved related to equipment as well as design and arrangement of components. PFP project expeditor Dave Courson made sure that resolutions were implemented before the glove-box unit was shipped to Hanford.

Testing was headed up by PFP project test director Andy Westra, PFP design authority Jerry Durnil (both with PFP Engineering); and project control engineer Ed Strieper and senior design engineer Jerry Delisle, both with Fluor Federal Services Engineering.

In addition to testing, the PFP operations team led by Ruben Rameriz developed the operating procedures, thanks to a laptop computer and hands-on system operation in the shop. This approach also provided invaluable operator training. Ruben's team included operators Ed Kauer, Les Smith, Debra Rettig and Larry Rosane and technical writer Lloyd Gardner, training evaluator Emma Dick and training specialist John Price.

Valuable experience

When the glovebox unit and components were delivered the next week, the knowledge of how glovebox equipment was put together and should operate allowed the operators who had done the testing to provide information to assist Fluor Federal Services personnel during installation of the gloveboxes at PFP.

The two main gloveboxes have been installed, and craftsmen are now installing components and finishing electrical tie-ins. The base construction is expected to be completed by the end of June. After a construction acceptance test, PFP staff members will conduct operational test procedures to test the equipment. When the testing has been satisfactorily completed, the operating staff will do "cold" runs to ensure that operating procedures are satisfactory and to become familiar with the equipment.

Once the management team declares readiness, the Fluor Operations Readiness Review team will conduct its review to confirm that the Solutions Stabilization Project is ready. This review will be followed by another review conducted by a DOE-RL Operations Readiness Team. DOE and Fluor Hanford personnel are working with the PFP startup team on a new innovative process to help establish the boundaries for a graded approach.

Startup of the magnesium hydroxide precipitation system is targeted for September. At this point the solution transfer lines will be activated and the process initiated with actual plutonium solutions.

"We are working an aggressive schedule," said Fluor Hanford project manager Rich Redekopp. "And what makes it possible is the initiative of a solid team of people who have been involved throughout the process. This team exemplifies

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the principles of ISMS in helping to create not only the most efficient but the safest possible environment for achieving this highly important job of plutonium solutions stabilization."

Taking time up front to seek out and resolve potential problems and to familiarize the staff with the job is expected to help minimize startup glitches. PFP staff members have found this approach invaluable in the magnesium hydroxide projects and others. The projects include the pre-installation mockup of the Bagless Transfer System by Fluor Federal Services and the earlier HAMMER mockup to prepare for an agitator motor replacement in the highly contaminated 241-Z Waste Management Facility. ✦

ISMS principles guide PFP process engineering

Deborah Dunn, FH

Integrated Environment, Safety and Health Management System principles have been in action since Plutonium Finishing Plant began seeking an effective process for thermal stabilization, packaging and long-term storage of plutonium-bearing solutions.

Four years ago, the vertical denitration calciner process was under consideration. At that time, ISMS had not evolved, but its core functions came into play as PFP workers — including John W. Price, Fluor Hanford Nuclear Material Stabilization nuclear chemical operator — worked side-by-side with scientists, coupling the hands-on knowledge and experience of field workers with scientific theory.

Worker involvement continued and expanded after the decision to switch to the magnesium hydroxide precipitation process. The incorporation of practical field experience into design and construction exemplifies ISMS core functions and guiding principles: defining the scope of work, identifying hazards and requirements, analyzing hazards, implementing controls, providing feedback, continuously making improvements and involving workers.

"The time to change it is before you operate it," Price said. "We changed the feed into the system, and considered the maintenance work that would have to be done inside the glovebox, recommending positioning that would be good for maintenance operations."

Floor plans were reviewed by operators and fire safety personnel for work traffic flow and effective emergency entries and exits. Worker involvement is contributing to better glovebox ergonomics, improved visibility, reachability and other "human factors" which will result in more efficient use of on-mask time with reduced risk.

"It will still be awkward, but we've eliminated a lot of that ahead of time," said Rich Layman, Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council safety representative for Nuclear Material Stabilization.

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ISMS principles guide PFP process engineering, cont.

For example:

- Gloveboxes are designed with everything in the middle so workers can reach in from different sides at the same time.
- A specific type of glove is required because its changing mechanism allows quicker changes with reduced likelihood of contamination.
- Piping was re-routed for ease of repair.
- Connectors are being located for ease of operation.

"We had input into the engineered barriers in the gloveboxes as well as the administrative barriers in the procedures," Price said. "So we have a workable document to start with."

"We can get it right the first time, because we've done it," said Steven Maki, Fluor Federal Services Building Trades safety representative. "We are all in this together, getting from point A to point B. We've built working relationships and are comfortable working with each other."

"Now we're departing from the recent past," Price said, "by bringing the cognizant engineers, construction forces and operators together. It's a shift in culture."

Layman, Price and Maki praised the Automated Job Hazard Analysis system as a mechanism for beneficial culture change. "AJHA really got us up and running," Price said. "It has a good feedback system built into it. It calls for subject-matter experts and seeks operator input.

"This shift in culture is the best of both worlds," Price concluded. "We have the documentation we need and the ability to do work. It's more common-sense. We've really come full circle." ❖

Send your ideas for "Security Ed" cartoons to: Security Education, L4-09, or e-mail them to ^Security Education PHMC.

If your idea is used, you will receive a credit line in the *Hanford Reach* and become eligible for prizes in the "Security Pays in Many Ways" campaign. ❖

Configuration management ensures information accuracy

Stephen T. Smith, FH
Beth Worthington, SAIC

Configuration management is the process used to ensure the accuracy of documentation, data and information that are used to make decisions. The challenge arises when configuration management, or CM, is applied across an enterprise where documentation, data and information change over time and are shared with others.

Configuration management, applied over the life cycle of a product, provides visibility and control of its performance, functional and physical attributes. Configuration management verifies that a product — a facility, transfer system, treatment system or encapsulated waste form, for example — performs as intended, and a product is identified and documented in sufficient detail to support its projected life cycle.

The Configuration Management System is functionally divided into five elements: CM system management, configuration identification, change control, configuration status accounting and CM assessment.

CM system management ensures configuration management is planned for the processes in the context and environment in which they are to be performed and managed. It encompasses assigning responsibilities, training personnel, measuring performance and assessing measurements and trends to effect process improvements.

This functional element establishes and implements a CM system that maintains consistency among the requirements, design, physical configuration and documentation of those activities that are important to the safe, effective and efficient completion of the Fluor Hanford workscope. CM system management results in documented plans, policies and procedures that are used to complete the work.

Configuration identification is the basis from which the configuration of items or products is defined and verified, products and documents are labeled, changes are managed and accountability is maintained. This functional element identifies the configuration of the item and ensures that all those working on the project are aware of the current configuration. This applies to systems, structures and components; technical information (as-builts); and programmatic information (project baselines, procedures, finance, human resources and procurement). This functional element produces product baselines and documentation from system requirements.

Change control ensures changes to a product are accomplished using a systematic, measurable change process. The change control functional element prevents unnecessary or marginal changes to Fluor Hanford and project configurations and ensures cognizant management visibility.

Configuration status accounting is an accurate, timely information base concerning a product and its associated information throughout the product life cycle. The configuration status accounting system records and reports all information necessary to manage the PHMC and project configurations effectively.

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Configuration management ensures information accuracy, cont.

CM assessments are periodic reviews that verify continued achievement of requirements, identify and document changes in performance and ensure consistency with documentation. The functional and physical configurations of the PHMC and projects undergo planned Fluor Hanford and internal configuration assessments during their life cycle. External audits, such as those associated with the Facilities Evaluation Board, are performed periodically and during critical project phases to verify that completed workscope and products have met contract requirements.

An additional element, CM of digital data, is increasingly important to configuration management. CM of digital data is necessary to accommodate the uniqueness of information being created, stored and used from computer systems. This functional element provides the unique business rules to be applied in the other CM functional elements that are necessary when dealing with digital data.

At Hanford, many facilities have been around for decades with possibly several different missions over that lifetime. An example is the Fast Flux Test Facility, which is on standby awaiting a decision on future missions or being shut down. In this uncertain environment, the facility staff has successfully maintained the documentation and configuration. Without this information, it would have been harder to support potential future missions. ✦

CM at Hanford based on industry consensus standard

The Project Hanford Management Contract, established in fiscal year 1997, included a requirement to move the site toward a configuration management consensus standard. The requirement states, “Establish a site-wide configuration management system based on industry consensus standards, which is integrated with other management tools. . .” [from PHMC Section C.2.B.(3)].

This requirement prompted Fluor Hanford to explore how configuration management was implemented at Hanford and to move toward industry consensus practices. The standard, ANSI/EIA-649 (American National Standards Institute/Electronic Industries Alliance), *Industry Consensus Standard for Configuration Management*, was identified and used at Hanford. To improve and clarify expectations for configuration management, Fluor Hanford intends to release a revised Configuration Management Plan in the next month.

The CM Plan describes the Fluor Hanford configuration management system and defines the configuration management scope of work to be completed by Fluor Hanford organizations in support of the projects affiliated with Fluor Hanford. The site CM Plan should be used in conjunction with the Configuration Management Policy and associated implementation documents both at the site and project level. These three sets of documentation — the Configuration Management Plan, the Configuration Management Policy and implementation documentation — represent the configuration management system, which is based on ANSI/EIA-649 and DOE-RL Order 1073-93 and is tailored to meet the specific needs of each project.

For further information on configuration management, contact Stephen T. Smith or Beth Worthington, or review the Hanford Site CM Plan HNF-MP-013.

Hanford High team wins in problem-solving competition

A team of students from Hanford High School and their Hanford Site coaches have returned from the "Destination Imagination Global Finals" competition in Ames, Iowa, as recipients of a "Renaissance Award."

Destination Imagination is the world's largest organization that promotes and develops creative problem-solving through competition. Competition starts at the regional level with winning teams advancing to the state competition and ultimately to the Global Finals. This year, more than 700 teams from the United States and other countries throughout the world gathered at the Iowa State University campus to compete in the finals.

After arriving in Iowa with a rental truck full of equipment and materials for the "Destination Imagination" competition, the Hanford High School team posed with coaches John Propson, left, of CH2M HILL Hanford Group and Rik Littlefield, right, of PNNL.

The Hanford High team competed in solving a problem titled "Fruit Roller Coaster" in which the team had to design, construct and demonstrate a roller coaster for tennis balls. The objective was to move tennis balls as fast as possible through a roller coaster that included a loop, a corkscrew, a jump and a team-designed "thrill event." The team also had to create a presentation about the design that would have artistic, performance and improvisational elements.

The Hanford High team was sponsored by Fluor Hanford, Bechtel Hanford, CH2M HILL Hanford Group, the Hanford Environmental Health Foundation and Lockheed Martin Services. The team members were Anna Curren, Neri Dagan, Shane Gulley, Kyle Kunkler, Kyle Littlefield, Adam Mitchell and Kim Propson. John Propson of CH2M HILL Hanford Group and Rik Littlefield of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory coached the team.

In an Iowa State University dorm room, Hanford High students (left to right) Kyle Littlefield, Adam Mitchell and Neri Dagan reassemble the "roller coaster" they helped to build for the "Destination Imagination" design competition. The roller coaster was disassembled in Richland and reassembled and tested in Iowa before the competition.

The Renaissance Award is presented to teams that demonstrate outstanding skill in engineering, design or performance. The Hanford team engineered a roller coaster within a roller coaster, with five major propulsion systems. "Therefore, the team went outside the box, resulting in two different solutions to the same challenge," said the master of ceremonies who presented the award. "Their exceptional engineering combined with their outstanding performance blew us away!"

The students finished seventh in their division, but the greater honor was receiving one of the special Renaissance Awards.

A Washington State University team that placed fifth in the college division was coached by Cathy Adams of Kennewick and Randy Ni of Fluor Hanford. The WSU team competed in the "Instant Pudding Improv" problem in which team members must improvise and act out a creative and humorous story based on a randomly selected character and situation.

Destination Imagination will hold its 2001 state tournament in Richland next April 7.❖

Program raises awareness of weapons of mass destruction

We've all been hearing a lot about weapons of mass destruction, or WMDs, as they are commonly known. Hardly a week goes by without major news networks drawing attention to the threatened use of WMDs. The recent World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle and calendar rollover to the year 2000 had many concerned about just such an attack.

WMDs are typically considered to be nuclear, biological or chemically based weapons, specifically designed to produce mass casualties.

Nuclear weapons contain radiological materials that can pose acute and long-term hazards to humans. People can be exposed to radiological materials via inhalation, ingestion, or proximity.

Biological weapons contain living microbes that will cause disease in people. Generally, the effects of a biological attack are not immediate, but rather like catching the flu in that symptoms begin to appear several days after the exposure. Exposure is usually the result of inhalation or ingestion.

Chemical weapons contain super-toxic chemicals used for the purposes of poisoning victims. Chemical WMD components are similar to hazardous industrial chemicals, but hundreds of times more toxic. Effects of chemical agents are usually immediate and catastrophic, coming via inhalation, ingestion or contact exposure.

Unfortunately, the number of people who possess the knowledge and materials to make WMDs is growing. The following list, although not comprehensive, identifies a few classes of potential terrorists:

- Lone psychopathic, sociopathic or criminally motivated individuals
- Local or regional terrorist groups
- State-sponsored terrorists
- Doomsday cults.

In some instances the use of a WMD would be immediately evident. In other cases, only trained personnel will recognize that an incident is in progress. The most important thing you can do as an employee is to increase your ability to recognize that a WMD event is in progress or has occurred. Key indicators include:

- Strange odor of unknown origin
- Symptoms exhibited by multiple victims (coughing, throat irritation, chest pain)
- Smoke, fumes, dust, aerosol or other evidence of airborne release
- Written or verbal threat
- Suspicious item or material.

Site emergency response agencies have worked rigorously to increase their ability to respond to a WMD event. They will be given the opportunity to demonstrate that capability on June 15 during the annual field exercise code-named "Bold Endeavor." The exercise will involve the simulated use of a WMD at a site facility.

Workers will soon notice a new component related to WMD awareness during Hanford General Employee Training (HGET). In addition, Emergency Preparedness will supply a 30-minute WMD awareness video to Fluor Hanford Safety for checkout and use during safety meetings. ❖

Learn to SWIM

As in most emergency situations, a good tool to use in response to a suspected WMD event is the acronym SWIM.

Stop all activities,

Warn others in the immediate area of potential trouble and call 9-1-1 (373-3800 from cellular telephones, 375-2400 for PNNL employees).

Isolate the affected area.

Minimize additional exposures by moving upwind from the potential hazard area.

LETTERS

Employees are invited to write letters of general interest on work-related topics. Anonymous letters will not be printed. We reserve the right to edit letters or not to accept letters for publication. Send your letters to the *Reach*, B3-30, or to *Hanford Reach on e-mail. Letters are limited to 300 words, and must include your name, company, work group and location. Opinions expressed are those of the author and not of DOE-RL, ORP or their contractors.

Questions PTB policy

I recently found out that a former co-worker had been approved for PTB transfer. I have known this individual for many years and was willing to donate some of my Personal Time Bank hours so they would be able to stay home and care for their sick spouse.

I was very upset to find out that I could not transfer PTB hours to this individual because of the organizational structure between contractors. I work for Fluor Hanford and this individual works for CH2M HILL.

I don't think this is right. We work with individuals for so many years that many become like family members. Why is it so difficult for the different companies to transfer hours between each other?

Penni Purdy
Fluor Hanford

Editors' note: Fluor Hanford and CH2M HILL Hanford Group have different prime contracts with DOE and different appropriations. River Protection Project employees who were previously part of the Project Hanford Management Contract team were allowed to transfer Personal Time Bank hours to employees of Fluor and its subcontractors until last Dec. 1 — also the last date that employees could transfer between CH2M HILL Hanford Group and any of the Fluor Hanford team companies without losing service time. The new policy is stated on the vacation transfer request form.

Barbecue safety

In the May 30 issue of the *Reach* there is a nice picture of an employee with her head in a barbecue, fiddling around with something she cannot even see. The title of the article is "Be Safe when barbecuing."

The article mentions opening up the lid prior to ignition. Good safety tip.

Here is another one, when starting any type of barbecue (gas, propane or briquettes):

Always keep your head away from the grill.

If I were in that situation, I would stand to the side of the grill, squat so I could see the knob, and then proceed to adjust the pressure.

Here is another safety tip: When operating mechanical equipment, *make sure you can see what you are doing.*

JC Epps
Lockheed Martin Services

CALENDAR

Pasco Park hosts Humane Society fund-raiser

The Benton-Franklin Humane Society will hold its annual "Paws in the Park" riverwalk fundraiser on June 10 at Chiawana Park, west of Pasco. The event is being sponsored by Team Battelle. Registration begins at 9 a.m. The participant fee is $25 (which may be paid by the participant or from pledges collected by the participant). The proceeds go to the Benton-Franklin Humane Society. All participants receive a commemorative T-shirt. Prizes will be awarded to the participant raising the most pledge dollars, and to the oldest and youngest participants. Highlights include a dog and owner look-alike contest and vendor booths with pet-related exhibits. Visit the Web site at **www.bfhs.com** to print the pledge form. Contact Brady Layman at 545-9303 or send an e-mail message to humane@3-cities.com for additional information.

Third annual Community Connections Conference set for June 13

The third annual Community Connections Conference will be held June 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Workforce Training Center on the Columbia Basin College Pasco campus. Community members, area policy makers and civic leaders are invited to explore the challenges and opportunities facing the Tri-Cities during this professionally facilitated, day-long session. The first conference in 1998 gave birth to what has become the current "Year of Our

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Children" community campaign. There is no charge to attend. For more information, contact Katie O'Leary of CBC at 547-0511, ext. 2299, or send an e-mail message to koleary@ cbc2.org.

Elvis to appear at NMA meeting on Wednesday

The Hanford Chapter of the National Management Association will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 14, at the Richland Best Western Tower Inn. Social hour begins at 5 p.m., dinner and a short business meeting begin at 5:45 p.m. "Elvis and the Extraordinaires" are the featured entertainment for this evening. Come and hear great tunes from the '50s, '60s, and '70s. Make your reservations for this exciting evening via the Web page at **http://www.nma1.org/chapters/395** or call Linnea Williams at 372-0285 by noon on Tuesday, June 13. The cost for guests is $15.50 at the door.

PNNL and Hanford Information Technology Expo 2000 rescheduled

The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Hanford Information Technology Expo, originally scheduled for June 14, was rescheduled for September. Watch for details on the Expo in future issues of the *Hanford Reach.*

SHRM meeting June 15

Employment Law in the New Millennium is the topic of the presentation at the Society for Human Resource Management Columbia Basin Chapter meeting on June 15. Jennifer Willner of the law firm of Chmelik, Sitkin and Davis will be the speaker. The dinner meeting will take place at the Richland Shilo Inn. The social begins at 5:30 p.m.with the presentation at 6:30. The cost is $13 per person. Make your reservation by noon on June 13 by calling Beth Johnson at 582-4142, ext. 223. There is no charge to attend the presentation only.

Salmon bake benefits fire safety, law enforcement

The 13th annual salmon bake presented by the Tri-Cities Kiwanis Clubs and the Tri-County Public Fire Educators and co-sponsored by Fluor Federal Services will be held Saturday, June 17, at the Richland Red Lion Hotel from 5 to 8 p.m. Proceeds from the event will go to the Fire Safety House and the fund for the purchase of law enforcement video cameras. The winner of a raffle for a new car will be drawn at the salmon bake. The raffle is part of a fund-raiser sponsored by the Tri-Cities Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs, Fluor Hanford, DynCorp Tri-Cities Services, Protection Technology Hanford and others to raise money for the video cameras for local law enforcement agencies. Tickets for the salmon bake are $20 and are available from tri-county fire departments, Kiwanis Club members, The Book Place in Richland, Fred Meyer in Richland and the Richland Red Lion Hotel.

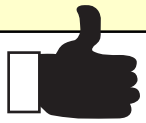
ANS meeting to feature talk on power planning

The June 20 meeting of the Eastern Washington Section of the American Nuclear Society, in conjunction with the Tri-Cities Technical Council, will feature a presentation by Dr. Tom Karier, the chair of the Northwest Power Planning Council. Karier, a professor of economics at Eastern Washington University and a Washington State appointee to the council, will speak on the future of power planning in the region and nuclear power's role. The meeting will take place at the Richland Best Western Tower Inn. The social hour begins at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30, and the presentation at 7:30. Dinner choices are medallions of pork bourbon, Caribbean pineapple chicken and fettuccine Alfredo (vegetarian). The cost for dinner is $12 for ANS members and $15 for non-members. Make your reservation and dinner choice by 4 p.m. on June 19 by calling Scott Finfrock at 376-4078 or sending an e-mail message to Scott.Finfrock@Fluor.com. Checks payable to ANS will be accepted at the door. ANS memberships purchased at this meeting ($10) will be good through the 2000-2001 year.

Rover Project reunion planned for September

In late September, the fifth reunion of those who worked on the Rover Project will be held in Las Vegas, Nev. One highlight will be a tour of the Nevada Test Site. Contact Bill Carlson at william_f_bill_ carlson@rl.gov or at billcarl@gte.net for more information. ✦

B R A V O



CH2M HILL Hanford Group announces performance award winners

The CH2M HILL Hanford Group Employee Recognition Council honored March and April performance award winners at a luncheon held May 31 in the 200 East Area.

For the month of March, the team of **Gary Hopkins, Randy Swift, Tom Hein, Ben Wutzke** and **Greg Painter** and the team of **Ken Anderson, Treta Ravencraft, Gregory N. Hanson, Shannon Kelly, Fred Schmorde** and **Ron Tucker** were winners in the safety category. Other individual winners included **Ron Sandeful, Darlene Heinemeyer, Greg Gardner, Leela Sasaki, Rob Dunn, Cherri DeFigh-Price** and **Randy Kirkbride**. Winners in the team category were **Tom Crawford, John Baldwin, Ted Hohl, Dexter Penwell, Rone Orme** and **Jaiduk Jo**.

For the month of April, winners in the safety category were **Lee Livesay** and **Hiram Mendoza**. **Corey McCord** and **Tom Hein** were winners in the hourly category. **Delora Tinsley** and **Ron Reed** were honored in the non-exempt category. Recognized from the exempt category was **Keith (Ko) Smith**. In the manager category, **John Hunt** was the winner. **Lance Amato, David Place** and **Kerry Prindiville** shared honors in the team category.

For additional information about the awards and the accomplishments of the winners, visit the Hanford Web site at **http://twrsll.rl.gov/recog/index.htm**. Nomination forms are available on Site Forms (A-6001-358.) ✦

N E W S B R I E F S

Medical radioisotope injections affect dosimeters

This year an unusually large number of Project Hanford personnel dosimeters have been exposed to radiation from nuclear medicine sources. The exposure comes from injections of radionuclides thallium, technetium and iodine used for medical studies of the heart, thyroid or other internal organs, or bone scans. Dosimeters have received up to 100 millirems from these internal sources, when worn by personnel immediately after a nuclear medicine study.

HNF-PRO-379, *External Dosimetry Program,* directs Project Hanford employees to contact their facility radiological control organization and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Dosimetry Operations at 373-3124 before they receive medical injections of radionuclides. If that is not possible, they should contact those organizations as soon as they return to work after the medical study is completed. Do not wear an assigned dosimeter after a nuclear medicine procedure until cleared to do so by the facility radiological control organization and PNNL Dosimetry Operations.

For more information, contact Les Aldrich of Fluor Hanford Radiation Protection External Dosimetry at 376-4139.

NMA Hanford presented youth awards

The Hanford Chapter of the National Management Association recognized a number of area students with awards during its annual Youth Academy Awards Night held May 18 at the Battelle Auditorium in Richland.

Certificates and $200 U.S. Savings Bonds went to first-place winners Omar Vaishnari of Hanford High School and Kimberlee Scott of River View High School as the Young Man and Young Woman Citizen of the Year. Other citizenship awards were presented to Justin Goranson of Pasco High School and Nisha Kapadia of Hanford High School (second place, $100 Savings Bonds) and to Elizabeth Commerce of Kennewick High School (third place, $50 Savings Bond).

Sean Peterson of Pasco High School and Rosalie Clark of Richland High School were the winners of the Youth Entrepreneur of the Year Award. They were each awarded a plaque, a $200 Savings Bond and a certificate.

The first place Running Start Students of the Year were Eli Thornock and Sonyia Villegas, both of Kennewick High School. Each won a trophy, a $200 Savings Bond and a certificate. Second places went to James Garrett Sims of Hanford High School and Jackie Newell of Kennewick High School. They each won a $100 Savings Bond and a certificate. Running Start students graduate from high school and Columbia Basin College the same year.

The two winners of the Washington State University Tri-Cities Community Volunteer Student of the Year were Theodore Mains of Prosser and Michelle Wellington of Richland. They were awarded a trophy, a $200 Savings Bond and a certificate each.

PTB update on Bacon, hours needed

Ron Bacon's son has made it through the surgery for a brain tumor. The surgery went well but Bacon's son will require an extended hospital stay to recover and com-

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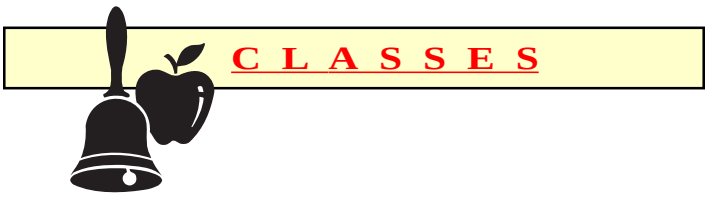
plete therapy. Bacon thanks those who have transferred vacation time, but he will require additional time off to assist with his son during the recovery from surgery and therapy

Any Fluor Hanford project team employee who would like to transfer some Personal Time Bank hours to Bacon can complete a Vacation Transfer Request form (A-6002-807) on Site Forms and send it to Lindsay Nelsen, Fluor Hanford Industrial Relations, at B2-64. Transfers should be in one-hour increments.

WSA and PNNL give to scholarship

The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and the Southeastern Chapter of the Washington Software Alliance have each contributed $500 to the newly established Marv Erickson Scholarship Award. The $1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a high school student who will be pursuing a degree and career in the software field, demonstrates academic excellence and is an active member of the community.

The check for the scholarship was presented to Erickson at the May 17 meeting of the Southeastern Chapter of the Washington Software Alliance in Pasco. The scholarship was named for Erickson to commemorate his service as a member of the board of directors of WSA, as the founder of the Southeastern Chapter of the WSA, and his efforts to help students in their education and career development. Erickson is the manager of the Intellectual Property Management Office at PNNL.



Protrain offers computer training

- **Principles of Project Management Seminar** — June 23. Cost: $49.
- **Excel 2000 Upgrade** — June 27. Covers the new features of Excel 2000 —working with office assistant; using new files, worksheets and formulas; formatting features and using Excel HTML files. Prerequisite: previous versions of Excel. Cost: $99.
- **Word 2000 Upgrade** — June 30. Review new features of Word 2000 — use new document features; Word checking tools; enhanced table, graphic and Word HTML features; and macros. Cost: $99.

June Special! Enroll in both of the 2000 Upgrade programs in June, for only $179.

- **Access Beginning** — June 20. Learn the basic database concepts, review the features of Access, work with objects and tables. Design table and property fields. Cost: $89.
- **Access Intermediate** — June 21. Create charts, apply filters, define and apply relationships, and learn to use form features. Cost: $89.
- **Access Advanced** — June 22. Learn how to use the application development features of the Access database application. Cost: $99.

June Special! Register for all three Access classes for only $249.

- **Project Management Techniques and Project 98** — July 17-19. Define project specification, implementation of a project, learn different elements of managing a project and become familiar with Microsoft Project 98 environment. Cost: $759 per person, or register 3 or more people for $699 each.
- **Introduction to Crystal Reports** — July 19. Create reports and formulas. Cost: $215.
- **Advanced Crystal Reports** — July 20. Compose enhanced reports and learn the full use of the Crystal Reports program. Cost: $215.

Early enrollment special! Enroll in both July classes in the month of June for $398.

- **Word Macros, Merges and Forms** — June 26. Learn the mail merge process to automate sending a form letter, use macros to automate your work and create your on computerized forms. Cost: $99.
- **Word Working with Long Documents** — June 29. Create and manipulate long documents. Learn to customize your default settings and toolbars, place data in worksheets and charts and create tables and figures. Cost: $99.

June Special! Complete both June classes for $179.

- **Outlook 2000 Beginning** — June 23. Learn to work with Outlook basics, office assistant, messaging and features, responding to a voting message, and scheduling with calendar. Cost: $89
- **Access 2000 Beginning** — June 26. Learn to create and modify tables, queries, forms, reports, and use filters. Cost: $89.

Call 946-1123 for more information on Protrain courses.

Continued on page 27

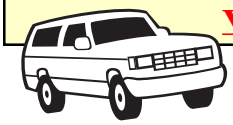
EOU offers credit for radiation classes

On June 21 at noon, Eastern Oregon University will be holding a free orientation session at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center concerning its distance education program.

Several training courses of the National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists (NRRPT) have been evaluated by Eastern Oregon University for college credit in radiation science. They include "Introduction to Radiological Science" (9 lower-division credits), "Radiation Detection and Measurement" (12 upper-division credits), "Radiation Protection and Control" (12 upper-division credits) and "Applied Health Physics Internship" (12 upper-division credits).

Eastern Oregon University offers bachelor of science and bachelor of arts degrees in six off-campus programs through its Division of Distance Education. Degrees are the same as those earned on campus, but are designed to meet the needs of working adults. Students may earn college credit for work experience and can conveniently earn degrees from home.

Eastern Oregon University has been a nationally recognized leader in distance education for more than 20 years and is accredited by the Northwest Association of State Colleges. For additional information, contact Marie Hall via e-mail at mkhall@eou.edu or by phone at (541) 278-5777, or visit the EOU Web site at **www.eou.edu/dde.** ✦



V A N P O O L S

Vanpool ads are run for two weeks. Ads must be resubmitted to run in subsequent issues of the *Hanford Reach*. The deadline for submissions is Thursday, 10 days prior to publication**.**

Protection Technology Hanford reminds employees to wear their badges. Vanpool and carpool drivers are responsible for ensuring riders are badged. If a passenger forgets his or her badge, Patrol must be informed at the barricades. For more information, look on the Hanford Web in the Projects and Activities section, Safeguards and Security (PHMC) at **http://www.rl.gov:1050/sas/pg1v3htm.**

KENNEWICK

One seat available for a rider on 8x9s vanpool from Kennewick to 200E. Picks up at the church on 19th, 19th and Garfield, the church at 10th and Union, and Albertson's on Clearwater. Stops at 2750-E, MO-276, MO-273, MO-286 and 2704-HV. Call **Sue** at 372-3752. 6/12

Great company! Huge benefits! Easy commute! We don't have a job for you, but we have a van. Come and join us. Low rates. Richland Wye to 200W, 8x9 shift. Call **Fred** at 373-2106. 6/12

RICHLAND

Van No.153 (standard 8x9 shift) picks up in the Meadow Springs and Hills West Area. Travels to 200E Area. Looking for riders. Picks up close to your home. Contact **Pam Powell** at 373-6200 or send an e-mail message. 6/12

North Richland vanpool is in need of one rider/driver. Leaves Stevens Center at 6:17 a.m. and goes to 2704-HV, the 2750 complex, MO-294 and East Tank Farms. Please contact **Marge** at 372-3577 or **Don** at 372-1417. 6/12

Vanpool to PFP needs two riders. Picks up along Wright and Birch Avenues and stops at Bethel Church parking lot on Jadwin Avenue. We try to limit our delivery point to PFP only. **Call John Faulkner** at 373-2286 or **Joe Russell** at 373-2441. 6/5

Van No. 64 has several openings. Leaves Stevens bus lot at 6:10 a.m. for 100K. Both 8x9 shifts. Will also drop at the CSB. Contact **Eva** at 373-1735 or **Bill** at 372-2881. 6/5

WEST RICHLAND

Rider needed to fill spot in a vanpool to 200E. 8x9s, 7 to 4:30. Picks up at Flat Top Park 'n Ride and The Pit Stop. 200E stops at 2752/2751, 274-AW, MO-273, MO-294 and 2704-HV. Contact **John Wells** at 373-3733 or **Wendell Briggs** at 372-0951. 6/12 ✦

PFP Safety Committee concerned about vanpool driver habits

The vanpool and carpool drivers' entry and exit habits in the Plutonium Finishing Plant turnaround area while loading or off-loading passengers have been a frequent topic of discussion at PFP Safety Committee meetings. The Safety Committee requests that — in the interests of safety and for the well-being of all pedestrians, vanpool and carpool riders — all drivers arriving at PFP should try to stay within the lines in the turnaround lane and avoid double parking. If everyone would comply with these requests and pull forward to fill in the vacant areas, safety would be greatly enhanced. ✦

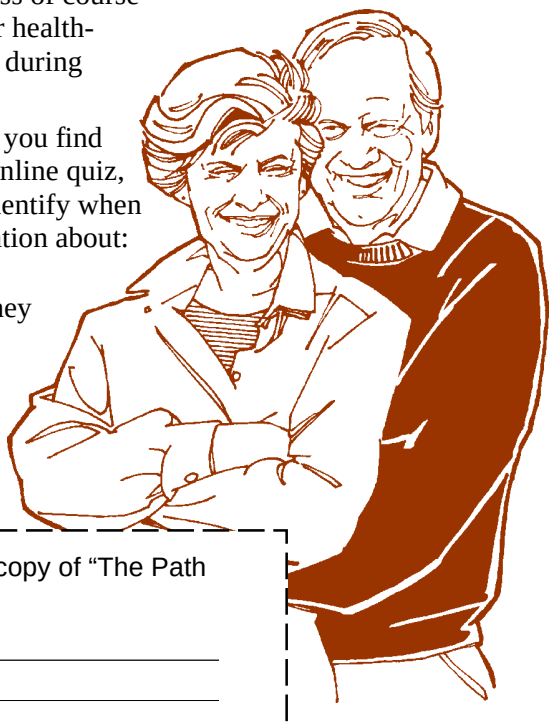
WORKING SOLUTIONS

Ahhh, retirement!

A time to enjoy the fruits of your labors. Unless of course you're worried about having enough money, or health-care coverage or figuring out how to stay busy during your "golden years."

Working Solutions has strategies that can help you find your way to a successful retirement. And the online quiz, "When will I Be Ready to Retire?" can help identify when you're ready to take the leap. WSI has information about:

- Finding fulfillment in retirement that money just can't buy
- Ways to avoid sabotaging your health
- Investing and the Internet
- Figuring out what to do when you retire
- Investing for more income.



☐ YES! Please send me a FREE copy of "The Path to Successful Retirement"

Name _____

E-mail _____

Home Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Employer _____

Worksite _____

WSI provides counseling, resources, referrals and educational materials to help Hanford employees and family members through Hanford Family Care Services.

To get your retirement packet, do one of the following:

- Access the information at **www.working-solutions.com**. *(Your Group Plan PIN is 5161.)*
- Call WSI at 1-800-358-8515 ***(This number can also be used to talk t o a WSI counselor.)***
- E-mail the form above to articles@wsi-or.com
- Fax the form above to 1-206-362-8081.